Blackman, Percy June - July, 1919 (039)

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46 Asquith Avenue,
Toronto, June 23rd, 1919.

The President,
University of Toronto,
T O R O N T O.

Dear Mr. President:

When I left for active service Overseas the University authorities kindly wrote a letter in which they told me:

"The Board of Governors have granted you leave of absence for military service, and will keep your position open for you upon your return."

The Superintendent, Mr. Campbell, also assured me that a good position would be awaiting me on my return.

When I returned last Fall it was requested that I continue some work for the British Admiralty which they were performing in Calgary. This I undertook with the approval of the University. Before going to Calgary I saw the Superintendent, and he told me it would be all right for me to go to Calgary provided I was back in Toronto about the first of May, at which time I was to be attached to the Plumbers staff for six weeks or so to get familiar with the piping layout preparatory to taking a position as Assistant Engineer in the Power House. I therefore made my arrangements on this basis. Subsequently I left my Calgary job in order to report for work at the University for May 10th. When I arrived in Toronto I found that Mr. Campbell was away, and the Acting Superintendent offered me an inferior position as an assistant on the electrician staff, and I was told that this was the only position open for me.

Feeling that I had not been treated in the way I had been given to understand I should, I appealed to you, and you kindly offered to see what could be done. I have now been waiting for nearly six weeks.

Last week I received two telegrams from Calgary wanting me to go back on the Admiralty work for a few months. On account of family responsibilities, however, and having been away from home so long, I prefer to remain in Toronto, although I am ready to go to Calgary to help out provided my doing so at this time will not prejudice my receiving the position which I understand you hoped would be made available for me when you told me that you would prefer that I did not take a position down town, but would remain with the University.

I am anxious to get into suitable work as soon as possible. I have made two or three efforts to communicate with you within the last week or so, but have not been successful, so am writing this letter in order that you may have the facts before you, and I shall esteem it a great favour if you could please let me know at the above address what I had better do in the matter. If so desired, I could keep any appointment to see you that you would make.

In view of the efforts you are kindly making for me, I did not feel it would be right to take any definite action requiring my leaving the City without hearing from you that my position with the University would not be prejudiced by so doing.

Looking for your reply, and thanking you for the kind interest you have shown in me, I am,

Yours respectfully,

P. Blackman

Sir Robert Falconer,
P r e s i d e n t.

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46 Asquith Avenue,
Toronto, June 25th, 1919.

The President,
University of Toronto,
T O R O N T O.

Dear Mr. President:

As mentioned in my letter to you of Monday last, it would have been esteemed a great favour if you could have assisted me with your advice in the perplexing circumstances in which I have been placed owing to the fact that my position at the University was not open for me as I had expected.

I am leaving for Calgary tonight because I cannot remain out of work any longer. This is just a little note to let you know that I looked for your reply, and not hearing from you felt that the course above mentioned was the only thing for me to do.

It is expected that I shall return to Toronto about the end of September. I trust that if it seems best then the University authorities will be able to carry out their promise given me before I went overseas that my position would be open for me upon my return.

Yours respectfully,

S. Blackman

Sir Robert Falconer,
P r e s i d e n t.

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July 2nd, 1919

Mr. Percy Blackman,

46 Asquith Avenue,

Toronto.

Dear Mr. Blackman:

Now that Mr. Tekan is out of the Hospital I have had another conversation with him and have asked him to do everything in his power to get a suitable position for you in September when you return from the West. Undoubtedly the University will do the very best it can for you. If no other position opens up Professor Schurman has placed $1000 in Physics as a salary for you, but we will do our best.

Yours sincerely,

President.